

Rehoboth Jan^y 23^d 1776—

Dear sir,

I received your kind Letter of the 1.st inst. I wrote you in October, and again the 6.th instant. the first I fear has miscarried, the last I hope you have received, in which I informed you of the poor progress I made in collecting Debts, and that I then intended to set out the next day on a dunning tour. I went. was gone 10 days & collected no more than £18. — however, sir, from the assurances I have I hope to send you a sum soon, if I collect but £100 you shall have it — I had a good opportunity by my friend Brimmer to write to Salem according to your desire and did so — As you had not received either of my Letters when you wrote me, I don't wonder, Sir, especially considering the engagements I have with you in business that you thought me careless, nor that you should ask the question whether it is possible I could forget you. No Sir, it is not possible — Your notice of me, the many instances of friendship and generosity I have experienced from you have to me been more honorable and interesting than I ever could have expected, I am sure, much more than I

deserved

deserved; and they have made such a lasting impression upon my mind as time itself cannot efface. Think then, dear Sir, what were the sensations of my mind when I read the latter part of your Letter - indeed Sir I love you - indeed Sir, my life is at your service - indeed Sir, I feel much - You have aroused all my Sensibility - You say, you can make distinctions - dear Sir, you have made very partial ones with respect to me, and I should deserve the severest censures did I not acknowledge it - and be assured, Sir, that nothing can make me so unhappy as to reflect that I have been the occasion of giving you a moment's pain - though I hope when you consider all circumstances you will not think me quite so faulty - I have supposed, and your Letter to me confirms it, that your whole time was taken up with public business, and therefore I could not bring myself to interrupt you with any thing more than was necessary. I thank you, Sir, for your kind expressions of friendship in the last part of your Letter, I never considered your partial regards to me, as one of the highest circumstances of my life

Life, and my continued ambition shall be to deserve them. As to News, Sir, your elevated station necessarily insures you a correspondence more sure & interesting than I can possibly pretend to - I shall therefore only just mention that the quotas of men now called for in our quarters stand ready to enlist as soon as the Officers are settled - The two Ships ordered to be built at Providence are carrying on with great spirit, it is said that 12,00 men will soon be engaged about them - Father Lewis and Mr. Bank both desire their most respectful Regards to you & your Lady, and be assured, Sir, that no person is more earnestly concerned for your welfare & happiness, and not only yours but also all yours are connected with especially Mr. Hancock, and your dear good Aunt than myself -

I continue Sir your greatly Obligated

Most Sincere friend, &
Humble Servant

William Bank

The Hon. John Hancock Esq.

William Bank
Letter Jan'y. 22. 1776

MS. ff. 5. 11. 2

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